

## Very Short Answer Questions

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**Q.1. Who was Hitler's propaganda Minister?**

**Ans.** Goebbels.

**Q.2. How Hitler's end came?**

**Ans.** Hitler, his Propoganda Minister Goebbels and his entire family committed suicide collectively in his Berlin bunker on 30 April, 1945.

**Q.3. What was Nazism?**

**Ans.** It was a system introduced by Hitler, which had a structure of ideas about the world and politics.

**Q.4. Which tribunal was set up after world war II to punish the Nazis for their crime against humanity?**

**Ans.** International Military Tribunal

**Q.5. What was 'Genocidal war'?**

**Ans.** It was a war which resulted in the mass murder of selected groups of innocent civilians of Europe.

**Q.6. Name the peace treaty signed after World War-I.**

**Ans.** It was called 'Treaty of Versailles'.

**Q.7. Who were called 'November Criminals'?**

**Ans.** Those who supported the Weimer Republic mainly Socialists, Catholics and Democrats were mockingly called the 'November Criminals'.

**Q.8. What happened when Germany refused to pay war reparation to France?**

**Ans.** In 1923, Germany refused to pay. The French occupied its leading industrial area, Ruhr, to claim their coal.

**Q.9. Why the value of German currency 'mark' fell?**

**Ans.** When French occupied Ruhr area, Germany retaliated with passive resistance and printed paper currency recklessly. With too much printed money in circulation, the value of the German mark fell.

**Q.10. What does 'Hyperinflation' mean?**

**Ans.** It's a situation when prices rise phenomenally high.

**Q.11. What was 'Article 48' of Weimer Republic?**

**Ans.** It gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree.

**Q.12. Who was Hitler?**

**Ans.** Hitler was born in 1889 in Austria, spent his youth in poverty. When the World War I broke out, he enrolled for army, acted as a messenger in the front, became a corporal and earned medals for bravery.

**Q.13. Under which situation, Nazi Propaganda was appreciated?**

**Ans.** After 1929, banks collapsed and businesses shut down, workers lost their jobs and the middle classes were threatened with destitution. In such a situation Nazi propaganda won people's hearts.

**Q.14. What promise was made by Hitler to the people as a leader of Germany?**

**Ans.** He promised to build a strong nation, undo the injustices of the Treaty of Versailles and restore the dignity of the German people.

**Q.15. How Nazis projected Hitler?**

**Ans.** Nazi propoganda skilfully projected Hitler as a messiah, a saviour, as someone who had arrived to relieve people from their distress.

**Q.16. How Hitler started dismantling democratic rule in Germany?**

**Ans.** A mysterious fire that broke out in the German Parliament building in February facilitated the move of Hitler.

**Q.17. What did 'The fire Decree' imply?**

**Ans.** Fire Decree of 28th February, 1933 indefinitely suspended civic rights like freedom of speech, press and assembly that had been guaranteed by the Weimer Constitution.

**Q.18. What was 'Concentration Camp'?**

**Ans.** It was a camp where people were isolated and detained without due process of law. Typically, it was surrounded by electrified barbed wire fences.

**Q.19. What was 'Enabling Act'?**

**Ans.** This Act established dictatorship in Germany. It gave Hitler all the powers to sideline Parliament and rule by decree. All political parties and trade unions were banned except for the Nazi Party and its affiliates.

**Q.20. Which Security forces were created by Nazis to control order in society?**

**Ans.** Besides Regular police in green uniform, there was Gestapo (Secret State Police) the SS (the protection squads), Criminal Police and Security Service.

**Q.21. Which famous economist was appointed by Hitler for economic recovery of Germany?**

**Ans.** Economist Hjalmar Schacht was appointed, who aimed at full production and full employment through a state funded work-creation programme.

**Q.22. What was the immediate cause of World War II?**

**Ans.** In September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. This became the immediate cause of World War II.

**Q.23. Among which three countries 'Tripartite Pact' was signed?**

**Ans.** In September 1940, a tripartite pact was signed between Germany, Italy and Japan.

**Q.24. When did US enter the World War II?**

**Ans.** When Japan extended its support to Hitler and bombed the US base at Pearl Harbor, the US entered into World War II.

**Q.25. Who were considered 'undesirable' by Hitler?**

**Ans.** Jews, Gypsies and blacks living in Nazi Germany were considered as inferior races, who threatened the biological purity of 'Superior Aryan' race, and were called undesirable by Hitler.

**Q.26. Why Jews were the worst sufferers in Nazi Germany?**

**Ans.** Nazis felt that Jews were killers of Christ and were also considered killers of US usurers (Moneylenders).

**Q.27. How schools in Nazi Germany were 'cleansed' and 'purified'?**

**Ans.** Teachers who were Jews or seen as 'politically unreliable' were dismissed. Children were segregated as Germans and Jews could not sit together or play.

**Q.28. What was 'Jungvolk'?**

**Ans.** These were Nazi youth groups for children below 14 years of age.

**Q.29. What were the 'gas chambers' called?**

**Ans.** Gas chambers were called 'disinfection areas' and looked like bathrooms equipped with fake shower heads.

**Q.30. Which was the most in famous film in which orthodox Jews were stereotyped and marked?**

**Ans.** The film was 'The Eternal Jew'.

**Q.31. Who wrote the book 'Third Reich of Dreams'?**

**Ans.** It was written by Charlotte Beradt.

**Q.32. What was 'Holocaust'?**

**Ans.** The Jews wanted the world to remember the atrocities and sufferings they had endured during the Nazi killing operations.

**Q.33. How do we come to know about Holocaust today?**

**Ans.** Memory of Holocaust is in memoirs, fiction, documentaries, poetry, memorials and museums in many parts of the world today.

## Short Answer Questions

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### **Q.1. How 'Nazi Party' was formed?**

**Ans. (i)** Hitler joined a small group called German Workers Party.

**(ii)** He subsequently took over the organisation and renamed it National Socialist German Workers Party.

**(iii)** This party came to be known as 'Nazi Party'.

### **Q.2. Write a short note on the eleven-year-old Helmuth's experiences in Germany.**

**Ans.** Helmuth was in bed when he heard his parents discussing something seriously. His father was a doctor, who was discussing with his wife that either they had to commit suicide or the Jews would kill them for revenge. Next day, the father spent some time with his son Helmuth and later, shot himself in his office. His uniform was silently burnt in the family's fireplace. Helmuth was so traumatised by this incident that he refused to eat at home for the fear that his mother would poison him. This was the tragic end of his father, who was a Nazi supporter.

### **Q.3. What do you understand by the 'Genocidal War' in Germany?**

**Ans. (i)** It means the mass murder of selected groups of innocent civilians of Europe. Nazis killed the Jews, Gypsies and the Polish civilians.

**(ii)** They killed people in poisoned gas chambers.

**(iii)** Number of people killed included six million Jews, 2,00,000 Gypsies, one million Polish civilians, 70,000 Germans, who were considered mentally and physically disabled besides many political opponents.

### **Q.4. How did the economic crisis begin in the USA?**

**Ans.** In USA, it began with the crash of the Wall Street Exchange in 1929, when USA could not recover back loans. Fearing a fall in price, people made frantic efforts to sell their shares. On a single day, 13 million shares were sold. Factories shut down, banks became bankrupt, exports fell, farmers were badly hit, leading to unemployment.

### **Q.5. Describe the formation of the Nazi Party.**

**Ans.** Economic crisis formed the background to Hitler's rise to power. Hitler was born in Austria and spent his youth in poverty. In the First World War, he

joined the army and acted as messenger in the front. The Treaty of Versailles and the defeat of Germany in World War I made him furious and horrified. In 1919, he joined a small group called the 'German Workers Party' and renamed it after taking over that party as, 'The National Socialist German Workers' Party'. This party later on, came to be known as the 'Nazi Party'.

**Q.6. How did Hitler capture power in Germany?**

**OR**

**What do you know about Hitler's personality?**

**Ans.** Hitler was a powerful speaker. His passion and his words moved and inspired people. In 1923, Hitler marched to Berlin with his followers to capture power. He failed and was arrested for treason and later released. But during the Great Depression, Nazism became a mass movement. During the economic depression, the Nazi propaganda stirred hopes of a better future. By 1932, the Nazi Party had become the largest party and Hitler became the chancellor of Germany.

**Q.7. What promises did Hitler make to the Germans when he came to power?**

**Ans. (i)** He promised to build a strong nation and undo the justice of Treaty of Versailles and restore the dignity of the German people.

**(ii)** He promised employment for those looking for work.

**(iii)** He promised to protect Germany from all foreign influences and secure his country's future.

**Q.8. Give a brief account of Hitler's entry into World War-II.**

**Ans.** In September 1939, Germany invaded Poland with the result that it started a war with France and England. In September 1940, Tripartite Pact with Italy and Japan and Germany was signed. By the end of 1940, Hitler had almost won all the wars. Hitler attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941. The Soviet Red Army gave a crushing defeat to the German soldiers. In the meantime, the US also entered the war when the Japanese bombed the US base at Pearl Harbor. The war ended in May 1945, with Hitler's defeat and US dropping of atom bomb on Hiroshima in Japan.

**Q.9. What was Hitler's ideology?**

**Ans.** Hitler's ideology was related to the geopolitical concept of living space. He believed that new territories had to be acquired for settlement. This would enhance the area of the mother country and it would also enhance the material resources and power of the German nation.

**Q.10. How did the Nazis develop a hatred for the Jews?**

**Ans.** Nazis believed that the Jews were the killers of Christ. Until medieval times, Jews were not allowed to own any land. They survived mainly through trade and moneylending. They lived in separately marked areas called the ghettos. Hitler's hatred for the Jews was based on pseudoscientific theories of race. They were terrorised, segregated and compelled to leave the country. During World War II, they were killed in gas chambers in Poland.

**Q.11. Which youth organisations were formed?**

**Ans.** Youth organisations were made responsible for educating the German youth. Ten-year-olds had to enter the Jungvolk, a Nazi youth group. At the age of 14, all boys had to join the Nazi youth organisation—'Hitler Youth' where they learnt to worship war, glorify aggression and hate the Jews. The Youth League of the Nazis was founded in 1922, which was later renamed as Hitler Youth.

**Q.12. How did common people react to Nazism?**

**Ans.** Many people would see the world through Nazi's eyes and hated the Jews. They marked the houses of the Jews and reported suspicious neighbours. However, many Germans were not Nazis. They preferred to look away and did not react against the Jews.

**Q.13. How did Hitler and his minister Goebbels' end come after World War II?**

**Ans. (i)** In May 1945, Germany surrendered to the Allies.

**(ii)** Anticipating what was coming, Hitler, his propaganda Minister Goebbels and his entire family committed suicide collectively in his Berlin Bunker in April.

**(iii)** At the end of the war, an International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg was set up to prosecute Nazi war criminals for crimes against peace, for War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity. Germany's conduct during the war especially those actions which came to be called Crimes Against Humanity, raised serious and ethical questions and invited worldwide condemnation.

**Q.14. How was German Parliament established after First World War?**

**Ans.** The defeat of imperial Germany and the abdication of the emperor gave an opportunity to parliamentary parties to recast German polity. National Assembly met at Weimer and established a democratic constitution with a federal structure. Deputies were now elected to the German

Parliament or Reichstag, on the basis of equal and universal votes cast by all adults including women.

**Q.15. What do you understand by ‘Hyperinflation’?**

**Ans. (i)** With too much of printed money in circulation, the value of German mark fell. As the value of German mark collapsed, prices of goods soared.

**(ii)** The image of Germans carrying cartloads of currency notes to buy a loaf of bread was widely publicised evoking worldwide sympathy.

**(iii)** This crisis came to be known as ‘hyperinflation’—a situation when prices rise phenomenally high.

**Q.16. What was Hitler’s propaganda to gain power?**

**Ans. (i)** Hitler devised a new style of politics.

**(ii)** He understood the significance of rituals and spectacle in mass mobilisation. Nazis held massive rallies and public meetings to demonstrate the support for Hitler and instil a sense of unity among the people.

**(iii)** The red banners with the Swastika, the Nazi Salute and the ritualised rounds of applause after the speeches were all part of this spectacle of power.

**(iv)** Nazi propaganda skillfully projected Hitler as a Messiah, a saviour, as someone who had arrived to deliver people from their distress.

**Q.17. How was economic recovery made in Germany?**

**Ans.** Hitler assigned the responsibility of economic recovery to the economist Hjalmar Schacht who aimed at full production and full employment through a state-funded work-creation programme. This project produced the famous German superhighways and the people’s car, the Volkswagen.

**Q.18. What was Hitler’s foreign policy?**

**Ans.** In foreign policy also Hitler acquired quick successes. He pulled out of League of Nations in 1933, reoccupied the Rhineland in 1936, and integrated Austria and Germany in 1938 under the slogan, ‘One people, one empire and one leader’. He then went on to wrest German-speaking Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia—and gulped the entire country. In all this he had the unspoken support of England, which had considered the Versailles verdict too harsh. These quick successes at home and abroad seemed to reverse the destiny of the country.





## Long Answer Questions

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**Q.1. What was the impact of World War-I on Germany's politics and society?**

**Ans. Effect on political life**

**(i)** Unfortunately, the infant Weimer Republic was made to pay for the sins of the old empire.

**(ii)** The republic was financially crippled and was forced to pay war compensation.

**Effect on society**

**(i)** Soldiers came to be placed above civilians.

**(ii)** The media glorified trench warfare, where soldiers lived miserable lives.

**(iii)** Aggressive war propaganda and national honour held an important place in the lives of people.

**Q.2. How was a 'Racial State' established by Hitler in Germany?**

**Ans.** Nazis wanted an exclusive racial community of pure Germans. Nazis wanted only a society of 'pure and healthy' Nordic Aryans. This meant that even those Germans who were seen as impure or abnormal had no right to live. Jews were considered undesirable. Many Gypsies and Blacks were also considered as inferior Germans. Even Russians and Polish were considered subhuman and were forced to work as slave labourers. Many of them died through hard work and starvation.

**Q.3. How did Hitler treat the Polish?**

**Ans. (i)** Poles were forced to leave their homes and properties for ethnic Germans brought in from occupied Europe.

**(ii)** Poles were then herded like cattle in other parts of Poland, called the destination for all undesirables of the empire.

**(iii)** Members of Polish intelligentsia were murdered in large numbers.

**(iv)** Polish children who looked like Aryans were forcibly snatched from their mothers and examined by race experts and if they passed the race tests, they were raised in German families, and if not they were deposited in orphanages.

**(v)** With some of the largest ghettos and gas chambers, this part of Poland also served as the killing fields for the Jews.

**Q.4. What kind of education was given in Nazi schools?**

**OR**

**What was Nazi's school syllabus?**

**Ans. (i)** Jew teachers were dismissed from the schools.

**(ii)** Children were segregated. Germans and Jews neither could sit together nor play together.

**(iii)** Subsequently, undesirable children—Jews, the physically handicapped and Gypsies were thrown out of schools.

**(iv)** School textbooks were rewritten.

**(v)** 'Racial Science' was introduced to justify Nazi's ideas of race.

**(vi)** Children were taught to be loyal and submissive to hate the Jews and worship Hitler.

**(vii)** Boxing was introduced as Hitler believed that it could make children iron hearted, strong and masculine.

**Q.5. How was the Holocaust practised in Germany?**

**Ans. (i)** Information of the Nazi's atrocities on the Jews had opened up to the world after the defeat of Germany in World War II.

**(ii)** The Jews wanted the world to remember the atrocities and sufferings they had endured during the Nazi killing operations called the Holocaust.

**(iii)** A ghetto inhabitant had wanted to tell the world about what had happened in Nazi Germany.

**(iv)** Many Jews had written diaries, kept notebooks and created archives that bore witness.

**(v)** On the other hand, when the war was lost, the Nazi leaders tried to burn all the evidences available in the offices.

**(vi)** Yet, the history and the memory of the Holocaust lived on the memoirs, fiction, documentaries, poetry and museums in many parts of the world today.

**Q.6. Trace the 'destruction of democracy' in Germany.**

**Ans.** This came about in January 1933, when President Hindenburg offered the Chancellorship to Hitler. He suspended civic rights like freedom of speech, press and assembly that were guaranteed by the Weimar Constitution in 1933. Then he turned to his arch-enemies, the Communists, who were hurriedly packed off to the newly established concentration camps. On

3 March, 1933 dictatorship was established in Germany. It gave all powers for Hitler to sideline parliament and rule by decree. All political parties and trade unions were banned except the Nazi Party and its affiliates. The state established complete control over the economy, media, army and judiciary.

### **Q.7. What was the impact of World War-I on European society?**

**Ans.** The First World War left a deep imprint on European society and polity.

**(i)** Soldiers came to be placed above civilians.

**(ii)** Politicians and publicists laid great success on the need for men to be aggressive, strong and masculine.

**(iii)** The media glorified trench life but actually soldiers lived miserable lives in these trenches, trapped with rats feeding on corpses.

**(iv)** They faced poisonous gas and enemy shelling, and witnessed their ranks reduce rapidly.

**(v)** Aggressive war propaganda and national honour occupied centre stage in the public sphere, while popular support grew for conservative dictatorships that had recently come into being.

### **Q.8. Which special surveillance and security forces were created by Nazis?**

**Ans.** Apart from the already existing regular police in green uniform and the Storm Troopers (SA), these included the Gestapo (Secret State Police) the SS (the protection squads) criminal police and security service. It was the extra constitutional powers of these newly organised forces that gave the Nazi state its reputation as the most dreaded criminal state. People could now be detained in Gestapo torture chambers, rounded up and sent to concentration camps, deported at will or arrested without any legal procedures. The police forces acquired powers to rule with impunity. So, in this way special surveillance and security forces were created to control or order society in ways that Nazis wanted.

### **Q.9. When and how did Hitler invade Soviet Union?**

**Ans.** By the end of 1940, Hitler was at the pinnacle of his power and now he moved towards Eastern Europe, after defeating France in the west, he attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941. In this historic blunder, Hitler exposed the German western front to British aerial bombing and the eastern front to the powerful Soviet armies. The Soviet Red Army inflicted a crushing and humiliating defeat on Germany at Stalingrad. After this, the Soviet Red Army hounded out the retreating German soldiers until they reached the heart of Berlin, establishing Soviet power over the entire Europe for half a century thereafter.

**Q.10. How did USA enter into World War-II?**

**Ans. (i)** USA had resisted involvement in the war, it was unwilling to face another economic crisis after the war. But it could not stay out of the war for long. Japan was expanding its power in the east.

**(ii)** It had occupied French Indo-China and was planning attacks on US naval bases in the Pacific. When Japan extended its support to Hitler and bombed the US base at Pearl Harbour, the US entered the Second World War.

**(iii)** The war ended in May 1945 with Hitler's defeat and the US dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.

**Q.11. How were Darwin and Herbert Spencer's ideas adopted by Hitler or Nazis?**

**Ans. (i)** Hitler borrowed racism from thinkers like Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer.

**(ii)** Darwin was a natural scientist, who tried to explain the creation of plants and animals through the concept of evolution and natural selection. Herbert Spencer later added the idea of survival of the fittest.

**(iii)** According to this idea, only those species survived on earth that could adapt themselves to changing climatic conditions.

**(iv)** Darwin never advocated human intervention in what he thought was a purely natural process of selection. However, his ideas were used by racist thinkers and politicians to justify imperial rule over conquered people.

**(v)** The Nazi argument was simple: the strongest race would survive and the weak ones would perish. The Aryan race was the finest. It had to retain its purity, become stronger and dominate the world.

**Q.12. How Germany came into the trap of 'Hyper-Inflation' situation after World War II? How were they saved?**

**OR**

## **Describe the events leading to the economic crisis in Germany.**

**Ans.**

- Germany had fought the war largely on loans and had to pay war reparation in gold.
- This depleted gold reserves at a time when resources were scarce.
- In 1932, Germany refused to pay, and the French occupied its leading industrial area 'Ruhr', to claim their coal.
- Germany retaliated with passive resistance and printed paper currency recklessly.
- With too much printed money in circulation, the value of the German mark fell.
- As the value of the mark collapsed, prices of goods soared.
- The image of the Germany carrying cartloads of currency notes to buy a loaf of bread was widely publicised.
- This crisis came to be known as 'hyper-inflation', a situation when prices rise phenomenally high.
- Eventually, the Americans intervened and bailed Germany out of the crisis by introducing 'The Dawes Plan' which reworked the terms of separation to ease the financial burden on Germany.

## **Q.13. How worldwide economic crisis can affect the society also? Analyse this situation in Germany.**

**OR**

### **What were the effects of the economic crisis on Germany?**

**Ans. (i)** The Germany's economy was worst hit by economic crisis.

**(ii)** Industrial production was reduced to 40 per cent.

**(iii)** Workers lost their jobs and the number of unemployed reached six million.

**(iv)** On the streets of Germany, men could be found with placards saying, "Willing to do any work."

**(v)** As jobs disappeared, the youth took to criminal activities.

**(vi)** The economic crisis created deep anxieties and fears in people.

**(vii)** The middle classes, especially salaried employees and pensioners, saw their savings diminish when the currency lost its value.

**(viii)** Small businessmen, the self-employed and retailers suffered as their businesses got ruined.

**(ix)** These sections of society were filled with the fear of 'Proletarianisation', an anxiety of being reduced to the ranks of the working class, or worse still, the unemployed.

**(x)** Only organised workers could manage to keep their heads above water, but unemployment weakened their bargaining power.

**(xi)** Big business was in crisis.

**(xii)** The large mass of peasantry was affected by a sharp fall in agricultural prices and women, unable to fill their children's stomachs, were filled with a sense of deep despair.

#### **Q.14. What kind of racial segregation was practised by Hitler?**

**Ans. (i)** Once in power, the Nazis quickly began to implement their dream creating an exclusive racial community of pure Germans by physically eliminating all those who were seen as 'undesirable' in the extended empire.

**(ii)** Nazis wanted only a society of 'pure and healthy Nordic Aryans'.

**(iii)** They alone were considered 'desirable'.

**(iv)** Only they were seen as worthy of prospering and multiplying against all others, who were classed as 'undesirable'.

**(v)** This meant that even those Germans, who were seen as impure or abnormal had no right to exist.

**(vi)** Under the Euthansia Programme, Helworth's father along with other Nazi officials had condemned to death many Germans, who were considered mentally or physically unfit.

#### **Q.15. Had media played any role in the propoganda of Nazi regime?**

**Ans. (i)** Media was carefully used to win support for the regime and popularise it worldwide.

**(ii)** Nazi ideas were spread through visual images, films, radio, posters, catchy slogans and leaflets.

**(iii)** In posters, groups identified as the 'enemies' of Germans were stereotyped, mocked, abused and described as evil.

**(iv)** Socialists and liberals were represented as weak and degenerate.

**(v)** They were attacked as malicious foreign agents.

**(vi)** Propoganda films were made to create hatred for jews.

**(vii)** The most infamous film was 'The Eternal Jews'. Orthodox Jews were stereotyped and mocked.

**(viii)** They were shown with flowing beards wearing kaftans, whereas in reality it was difficult to distinguish German Jews by their outward appearance because they were a highly assimilated community.

**(ix)** They were referred to as vermin, rats and pests. Their movements were compared to those of rodents.

**(x)** Nazism worked on the minds of the people, tapped their emotions and turned their hatred and anger at those marked as 'undesirable'.



## HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

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**Q.1. Briefly describe the role of International Military Tribunal set up after the Second World War.**

**OR**

**State the reasons of setting up an International Military Tribunal at Nuremburg.**

**Ans.** At the beginning of the winters in 1942, the governments of the Allied powers announced their intent to punish Nazi War criminals. On December 17, 1942, the leaders of the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union decided to hold an International Military Tribunal to resolving to prosecute those responsible for violence against civilian populations. The four charges brought against these officials were:

**(i)** Conspiracy to commit crimes of peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

**(ii)** Crimes against peace

**(iii)** War crimes

**(iv)** Crimes against humanity

**(v)** After the defeat in World War-II, Germany surrendered, Hitler committed suicide. His propaganda Minister Goebbels and his family collectively committed suicide.

**(vi)** At the end of the war, an International Military Tribunal was set up at Nuremburg.

**(vii)** Nuremburg prisoners were imprisoned for life and many doers who killed Jews mercilessly were sentenced to death.

**(viii)** The amount of brutality, committed by Nazi army officers was much more than the punishment given to them.

**Q.2. "Politically, the Weimer Republic was fragile. Explain the statement.**

**Ans.** The Weimer Constitution had some inherent defects which made it unstable. Due to proportional representation, one single party could not come to power, rather a coalition government was formed. Another defect was the Article 48, which gave the President the powers to impose

emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree. Within a short period of time, many governments changed and this made people lose confidence in the democratic parliamentary system which seemed to offer no solutions.

**Q.3.** “The treaty of Versailles was humiliating on the Germans. Give reasons to support your answer.

**Ans. (i)** The peace treaty at Versailles with the Allies was a harsh and humiliating one.

**(ii)** Germany lost its overseas colonies, a tenth of its population, 13 per cent of its territories, 75 per cent of its iron and 26 per cent of its coal to France, Poland, Denmark and Lithuania.

**(iii)** The Allied powers demilitarised Germany to weaken its powers.

**(iv)** The War Guilt Clause held Germany responsible for the war and damages the Allied countries suffered.

**(v)** Germany was forced to pay compensation amounting to about 6 billion pounds.

**(vi)** The Allied army also occupied the resource-rich Rhineland for much of the 1920s.

**(vii)** Many Germans held the new Weimar Republic responsible for not only the defeat in the war but the disgrace at Versailles.

**Q.4. “By the end of 1940, Hitler was at the Pinnacle of his Power. Explain the statement.**

**Ans. Destruction of Democracy:**

Hitler became the Chancellor of Germany on 30th January, 1933. He indefinitely suspended civic rights like freedom of speech, press and assembly. Then he turned his attention to concentration camps set up for communists.

**Enabling Act**

This Act established dictatorship in Germany. It gave Hitler all powers to establish his rule. He banned all other political parties and trade unions.

**Security Forces**

Special security forces were created to control and order society in ways that the Nazis wanted. People could now be detained in Gestapo torture chambers, sent to concentration camps or arrested without any legal procedures.

## **Foreign Policy**

Hitler first of all pulled his country out of the League of Nations. He reoccupied Rhineland area and integrated his country. Then he occupied Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia and later gobbled up the whole country.

### **Q.5. How did the Nazis proceed to realise their murderous racial ideology by eliminating the undesirable?**

**Ans.** Jews were not the only community classified as 'undesirable'. There were others too. Many 'Gypsies' and 'Blacks' living in Nazi Germany were considered as racial inferiors who threatened the biological purity of the superior Aryan race. They were widely persecuted. Even Russians and Poles were considered subhuman and hence undeserving of any humanity. When Germany occupied Poland and parts of Russia, captured civilians were forced to work as slave labour. Many of them died simply through hard work and starvation.

### **Q.6. State three important features of Hitler's ideology of geopolitical concept of living space.**

**Ans.** Following are the three features of Hitler's ideology.

**(i)** Hitler followed the geopolitical concept of Lebensraum.

**(ii)** The term 'Lebensraum' means 'Living space'. According to this ideology all living things grow and need more space for growing. Similarly for a country to grow, more space is needed.

**(iii)** Hitler followed expansionist policy, therefore for increasing his territory and power. He started moving eastwards in Europe and occupied invading those countries. During this period, Super Power also followed 'Appeasement Policy'.

### **Q.7. 'The Nazi regime used language and media with case, and often to great effect'. Explain and justify.**

**Ans.** Media was used by Nazis to propagate their ideas world over. Nazi ideas were spread through visual images, films, radio, posters, catchy slogans and leaflets. Socialists and liberals were stereotyped as weak and degenerated. Propaganda films were made to create hatred for the Jews. The most infamous film was 'The Eternal Jew'. Orthodox Jews were shown with flowing beards wearing Kaftans, whereas in reality, they looked like any other German. Jews were referred to as vermin, rats and pests.